

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NATO 07906 01 OF 02 181821Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05
INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01
SP-02 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 CU-04 IO-13
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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5407
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE BE PRIORITY
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 07906

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, SP
SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO: INVITING SPAIN TO ALLIED MANEUVERS

REFS: (A) STATE 193260 (DTG 152219Z AUG 77) (NOTAL),
(B) ROME 13370 (DTG 171645Z AUG 77) (NOTAL), (C) BONN
13239 (DTG 121730Z AUG 77) (NOTAL), (D) COPENHAGEN 4806
(DTG 121436Z AUG 77) (NOTAL), (E) NATO 7685 (DTG 100845Z
AUG 77) (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE BELGIANS PREFER NOT TO INVITE A SPANISH
OBSERVER TO BLUE FOX, AND WE SEE PROBLEMS IN TRYING
TO ARRANGE AN INVITATION FOR ARROW EXPRESS OR TO NATO'S
LONG RANGE RECONNAISSANCE PATROL SCHOOL. WE UNDERSTAND
THE SPANISH ARE INVITING MILITARY ATTACHES IN MADRID
TO A MANEUVER IN OCTOBER. WE SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL
(REF B) OF INVITING THE SPANISH TO PHIBLEX. IN
PROMOTING ALLIED INVITATIONS TO THE SPANISH,
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PAGE 02 NATO 07906 01 OF 02 181821Z

WE WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES THAT
INVOLVE A FEW ALLIES AND BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS
ABOUT RAISING THE QUESTION OF FORMAL "NATO CLEARANCE".
END SUMMARY.

1. BLUE FOX: BELGIAN CHARGE REACTED NEGATIVELY WHEN
WE SUGGESTED TO HIM AUGUST 16 THAT BELGIUM INVITE

SPANISH MILITARY ATTACHE IN BRUSSELS TO BLUE FOX. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT BELGIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES WERE INVITING ATTACHES FROM NATO COUNTRIES TO BLUE FOX. THEY HAD NOT FAVORED INVITING CSCE OBSERVERS (AND HAD PURPOSEFULLY SET THE TROOP LEVEL AT 24,000) BECAUSE OUTSIDERS MIGHT COMPLICATE THE ROLE OF ALLIED OBSERVERS TO WHOM THE BELGIANS WANTED TO "SHOW AND TELL" EVERYTHING IN THE HOPE OF ELICITING A HELPFUL CRITIQUE. BELGIAN CHARGE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO HANDLE A SPANISH ATTACHE SEPARATELY FROM ALLIED OBSERVERS AND THAT HIS AUTHORITIES MIGHT BE RELUCTANT TO TAKE THE LEAD IN INVITING A SPANISH OBSERVER IN A NON-CSCE CONTEXT. NOTING VALUE OF INCREASING SPANISH MILITARY CONTACTS WITH NATO, AND USEFUL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY BLUE FOX, WE URGED BELGIAN CHARGE TO PRESENT SUGGESTION TO HIS AUTHORITIES FOR SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION. HE SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED US THAT SINCE INVITATIONS WERE SENT JUNE 26 TO ATTACHES OF NATO COUNTRIES IN BRUSSELS, THE DEFENSE MINISTRY PREFERRED NOT TO ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE AN ADDITIONAL INVITATION FOR THE SPANISH ATTACHE AT THIS STAGE.

2. ARROW EXPRESS: WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO TEST DANISH AND UK RECEPTIVITY TO INVITING A SPANISH OBSERVER TO THIS MANEUVER AS SUGGESTED REF D. UNLIKE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 07906 01 OF 02 181821Z

BLUE FOX, A "MULTINATIONAL" MANEUVER IN WHICH ONLY BELGIUM, THE US AND THE FRG WILL PARTICIPATE, ARROW EXPRESS IS LISTED AS A "NATO" MANEUVER WITH SOME BELGIAN, CANADIAN, FRG, ITALIAN, AND NETHERLANDS PARTICIPATION, ALONG WITH THAT OF THE DANES, UK, AND US. THE DANES MIGHT THEREFORE FEEL THAT AN INVITATION TO A SPANISH OBSERVER IN A NON-CSCE CONTEXT SHOULD BE CLEARED WITH THE ALLIES. MOREOVER, SINCE THE DANES PLAN TO INVITE A BALANCED GROUP OF THREE ALLIED, THREE NNA, AND THREE WP CSCE OBSERVERS TO ARROW EXPRESS, THEY MIGHT BE RELUCTANT TO MAKE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDLING A SEPARATE SPANISH OBSERVER. WE AGREE WITH SUGGESTION IN REF D OF ENCOURAGING THE SPANISH TO ACCREDIT A MILITARY ATTACHE IN COPENHAGEN--AND OTHER NATO COUNTRIES AS APPROPRIATE.

3. NATO SCHOOL AT NEUHASSEN OB ECK: WE FORESEE A PROBLEM WITH THE INVITATION SUGGESTED REF C, IN THAT WE UNDERSTAND FROM EURO/NATO TRAINING DOCUMENTS THAT THIS SCHOOL WAS CONDUCTED ON A TRIAL BASIS IN JUNE AND JULY, AND THAT IF RESULTS ARE CONSIDERED POSITIVE WHEN EVALUATION IS COMPLETED IN OCTOBER THE SCHOOL MAY BE RESUMED--BUT AT

A DIFFERENT LOCATION.

4. PHILBEX: WE SUPPORT PROPOSAL (REF B) TO INVITE A SPANISH OBSERVER TO PHILBEX.

5. SPANISH NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVER: AT THE AUGUST 17 POLADS MEETING, FRG REP SAID THE SPANISH EMBASSY IN BONN INFORMED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BY NOTE ON 11 AUGUST OF A MANEUVER TO BE HELD IN THE SPANISH PROVINCE OF CIUDAD REAL OCTOBER 8-15 WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ABOUT EIGHT THOUSAND TROOPS. THE SPANISH NOTE DID NOT REFER

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 NATO 07906

TO THE CSCE FINAL ACT, BUT SAID MILITARY ATTACHES ACCREDITED IN MADRID WILL BE INVITED AS OBSERVERS TO THE MANEUVER. CANADIAN POLAD SAID THE SPANISH DELIVERED A SIMILAR NOTE IN OTTAWA. NOTING UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHETHER SPANISH WERE SIMPLY INVITING ATTACHES TO A MANEUVER OR NOTIFYING IT IN THE CSCE CONTEXT, FRG AND CANADIAN POLADS REQUESTED INFORMATION ON WHETHER OTHER ALLIES HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR NOTES.

6. COMMENT: IT OCCURS TO US THAT THE ABOVE INVITATION MIGHT SERVE AS A PEG FOR ENCOURAGING ALLIED INVITATIONS TO THE SPANISH.

7. IN PROMOTING SPANISH MILITARY CONTACTS WITH NATO, THE EASIEST INITIAL STEPS ARE LIKELY TO BE THOSE INVOLVING SPANISH CONTACTS WITH A FEW ALLIES THAT CAN BE ARRANGED WITH THE APPROVAL OF ONE OR TWO OF THEM.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 NATO 07906 02 OF 02 181822Z

IF SPANISH OBSERVATION OR VISIT IS TO BE A MATTER OF RECORD THE ALLIES SHOULD PROBABLY BE CONSULTED OR AT LEAST INFORMED. IN SUCH INSTANCES, WE WOULD PREFER TO TAKE A LOW KEY APPROACH THROUGH INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH THE ALLIES AND AVOID THE QUESTION OF AN OFFICIAL "NATO" CLEARANCE. IF A MORE STRUCTURED APPROACH IS REQUIRED, WE COULD RAISE THE QUESTION OF AN INVITATION IN POLADS OR THE MC, ALTHOUGH BY DOING SO WE WOULD RISK PROMPTING A DEBATE OVER A MINOR STEP WITH THE SPANISH.

8. WE BELIEVE IT BEST TO AVOID FORMALIZING PROCEDURES CONCERNING SPANISH OBSERVER INVITATIONS AND SUGGEST THAT WE KEEP A RECORD AT THE MISSION RATHER THAN ASK THE IS OR IMS TO DO SO (PARA 5 REF A).

9. BELGIUM PREFERENCE NOT TO INVITE THE SPANISH TO BLUE FOX SEEMS FIRM. HOWEVER, POSSIBLY THE BELGIANS COULD INVITE THE SPANISH ATTACHE TO THE MANEUVER, RESTRICTING THE SENSITIVE BRIEFING SESSIONS ONLY TO NATO ALLIES. WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO BACK TO THE BELGIANS HERE IF THE DEPARTMENT DESIRES. REQUEST GUIDANCE. GLITMAN

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